

February 13, 1958

Dr. G. Sermenti
Istituto Superiore di Sanità
Viale Reg. Elena 299
Roma, Italia

My dear Sermenti:

As soon as I received your letter of the 6th (just today!) I called up Dr. Bradley on the telephone, as it was obvious there must have been some misunderstanding.

He is writing to you immediately to make a formal offer of a guarantee similar to the one furnished by Benner, of some \$1000 for three months. I understand that this would be a guarantee in order to make it possible for you to discuss whatever more extensive plans you might wish to make; it would be enough at least to ensure that you continue with the Fulbright.

May I suggest that, as soon as you receive Bradley's letter, you write to Benner indicating that you had decided that you would prefer to work with Bradley. Do not hesitate to mention my name, as having urged you to consider this alternative, if you feel it would facilitate your explanation. I would be happy to write to him myself, but if I did so at this moment it might be awkward. If, having received and accepted ~~BENNER'S~~ Bradley's offer, you would like me to write to Benner let me know. In any case, I will see Dave at a meeting here in mid-April and can explain the situation in person if that is necessary.

Actually, I do not think there will be any embarrassment about it and am sure that Dave will understand fully.

Meanwhile, you and Dr. Bradley should be making plans for the possibility (1) of your ~~xxxxxxxx~~ somehow not receiving a Fulbright award, and (2) of a longer stay including your wife as well. I will contact Bradley further, if necessary and if I can think of any sources of funds he might overlook. For your part, I am sorry not to have brought up the possibility of an NIH research fellowship, a few of which are now available to European scholars (bulletin enclosed). Unfortunately it is too late to make an application for this year, in the routine way. However, I suggest that you write nevertheless to: Dr. Roland Scantlebury, Division of Research Fellowships, National Institute of Health, Bethesda 14, Maryland, and ask for any information on fellowship programs that would be available. I imagine these plans would require a one year tenure.

You may still wish to spend some time with Benner, particularly if you can arrange a somewhat longer fellowship with Bradley than you had originally planned. If so, you should write quite frankly about this to him.

I am sure there is more I could say, but I will leave it to you to bring up any other details. Do not hesitate to write to me (and I may say to Dr. Bradley) if there are any questions on which either of us can help. Your fur-

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ther correspondence will be mainly with Bradley of course. But please let me know the progress of your plans.

As is obvious, I am sure that this is a wiser course for you, and that it will be of benefit to the progress of the field as well as to yourself. I am sure that Dr. Bradley is also looking forward to it, and except that I must send a copy of this letter to him I would repeat the nice things ~~of~~/ I already said about him to you.

With all best wishes, and regards to Isabella,
and arrivedence Roma,

Sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg

P.S. It will save time in disposing of future formalities if you can send Dr. Bradley a complete curriculum vita, both for yourself and Isabella. This should include your legal name, date, and place of birth, as well as the usual list of academic qualifications and publications. It might be convenient if I could have a copy too.